

**To:** Shamet, Stefania[Shamet.Stefania@epa.gov]; Price-Fay, Michelle[Price-Fay.Michelle@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** McGuigan, David[McGuigan.David@epa.gov]  
**From:** Seligman, Andrew  
**Sent:** Wed 12/3/2014 2:15:41 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Washington Aqueduct Site Inspection of Sedimentation Basin Bypass

Will do.

Andrew F. Seligman  
Environmental Scientist & Enforcement Officer  
NDPES Enforcement Branch  
1650 Arch Street, 3WP42  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
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"The Wind and Waves are always on the side of the ablest Navigators"

Edward Gibbon, English Historian 1734-1794

"There is no education like adversity"

Benjamin Dilsraeli, British Prime Minister

**From:** Shamet, Stefania  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 03, 2014 7:45 AM  
**To:** Price-Fay, Michelle  
**Cc:** McGuigan, David; Seligman, Andrew  
**Subject:** Re: Washington Aqueduct Site Inspection of Sedimentation Basin Bypass

Andrew -- I'm out of pocket until noon-ish. Can you call Josh and get some available times and I will give the Aqueduct a heads up that we need a call today.

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**From:** Price-Fay, Michelle  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 3, 2014 7:28 AM  
**To:** Shamet, Stefania  
**Cc:** McGuigan, David; Seligman, Andrew  
**Subject:** RE: Washington Aqueduct Site Inspection of Sedimentation Basin Bypass

I think a call to sort out whether or not they are meeting the conditions is good.

Michelle Price-Fay, Chief  
NPDES Enforcement Branch  
USEPA, Region 3  
1650 Arch Street  
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phone: 215-814-3397  
fax: 215-814-2318

**From:** Shamet, Stefania  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 03, 2014 7:18 AM  
**To:** Price-Fay, Michelle  
**Cc:** McGuigan, David; Seligman, Andrew  
**Subject:** Re: Washington Aqueduct Site Inspection of Sedimentation Basin Bypass

The permit does not allow a direct discharge from the basins. That's the reason for the bypass. We were aware it would be a large volume of sediment. We (credit: Andrew) asked for the volume. I don't think they gave us a quantity, but Aqueduct told us it would be comparable to the volumes that were released in connection with the previous permits and under the FFCA (older permits (pre-2003 & the FFCA allowed them to discharge the basins -- the issue actually isn't the sediment -- it's the alum in the floc).

The bypass included conditions such as diluting the discharge, stretching the discharge over a couple of days, and discharging only when the river was running high in order to increase dilution. Can't tell from this whether those are being met.

Happy to call the Aqueduct and ask them to stop while we sort this out. But need to do that sooner rather than later before it's all a foregone conclusion.

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**From:** Price-Fay, Michelle  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 3, 2014 6:59 AM  
**To:** Shamet, Stefania  
**Cc:** McGuigan, David; Seligman, Andrew  
**Subject:** Re: Washington Aqueduct Site Inspection of Sedimentation Basin Bypass

From my brief discussion yesterday and skimming through the attached documents last evening, I understand DDOE's issues to be the sediment that is being discharged. DDOE has concern that we were not provided all enough information to show the volume of sediments that they were going to release.

Does the permit has a requirement for maintaining the sediment on the basin?

Did they provide estimates on the volume that they expected to be released as part of this bypass?

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 2, 2014, at 10:04 PM, Shamet, Stefania <[Shamet.Stefania@epa.gov](mailto:Shamet.Stefania@epa.gov)> wrote:

I'm not really clear here on what information we were not given -- he seems to be describing the expected results of the bypass. But I'm not an expert on that. It sounds as though they have completed draining one basin and are in the process of draining the other.

I propose I call the Aqueduct tomorrow and ask them to suspend the discharge until we can sort this out. We probably need to schedule a call with me - Andrew - Josh

to get a better understanding of DDOE's issues and then a call with the same folks plus the Aqueduct to sort this out.

Andrew -- it's probably me being dense. I think Josh said that the permit wasn't being complied with (apart from the bypass), but I can't tell how from this.

I'll call the Aqueduct in the am. I am guessing they are going to say that once the draining is commenced they can't stop and I have no idea what to say to that, but I'll at least start the ball rolling. As to the rest -- Thoughts?

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**From:** Price-Fay, Michelle  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 2, 2014 6:42 PM  
**To:** Shamet, Stefania; McGuigan, David  
**Subject:** Fwd: Washington Aqueduct Site Inspection of Sedimentation Basin Bypass

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Rodriguez, Joshua (DDOE)" <[joshua.rodriguez@dc.gov](mailto:joshua.rodriguez@dc.gov)>  
**To:** "Price-Fay, Michelle" <[Price-Fay.Michelle@epa.gov](mailto:Price-Fay.Michelle@epa.gov)>, "Hopkins, Ingrid" <[Hopkins.Ingrid@epa.gov](mailto:Hopkins.Ingrid@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** "Seligman, Andrew" <[Seligman.Andrew@epa.gov](mailto:Seligman.Andrew@epa.gov)>, "Bendik, Kaitlyn" <[bendik.kaitlyn@epa.gov](mailto:bendik.kaitlyn@epa.gov)>, "Kelley, Isaac (DDOE)" <[isaac.kelley@dc.gov](mailto:isaac.kelley@dc.gov)>, "Pilat, David (DDOE)" <[david.pilat@dc.gov](mailto:david.pilat@dc.gov)>  
**Subject:** Washington Aqueduct Site Inspection of Sedimentation Basin Bypass

Michelle,

Attached are the findings of our inspections of the Washington Aqueduct in response to their request and subsequent approval for the bypass and discharge of their sedimentation basins. DDOE WQD Inspection and Enforcement recommends the discharge and bypass authorization be immediately suspended and the discharge from the Georgetown Reservoir's Outfalls 003 and 004 cease, while the process by which the Aqueduct handles the sediment and residual solids is re-evaluated.

If you have further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you.

**Joshua Rodriguez**

Branch Chief

Inspection and Enforcement Branch

Water Quality Division

District Department of the Environment

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